



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's Confidence Corner we want to tie two passages together that speak of our Savior's care for us. One of the passages is a New Testament passage and the other is an Old Testament passage. Both are very familiar passages.

In 1 Peter 5:7 Peter tells those Christians who are facing persecution that they need to cast all their care upon Him (Christ) for He cares for you! What a comfort for those who were experiencing such severe persecutions. Most likely this comfort was enhanced by a passage that would have been a part of Scripture Christians would know well. Psalm 23 could have even been sung as a hymn by the early Christians.

Phillip Keller, once a shepherd himself, in his book *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, relates that the strange thing about sheep is that because of their very makeup, it is almost impossible for them to be made to lie down unless four requirements are met. First, due to their timidity, they must be free from all fear. Next, because of their sociability, they must be free from friction with others of their kind. Third, they must be free from flies or parasites if they are to relax. Lastly, they will not lie down unless free from hunger. It is only the shepherd who can provide release from all these anxieties. As our Good Shepherd, the Lord meets all these needs for us, so that we can "lie down in green pastures," with our souls restored by his care.

Christians who read Peter's words should have understood that they could cast their cares upon Him (Jesus). When they considered the extent of care Christ would provide, they should have been able to better endure the persecutions they were experiencing.

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In Luke 14:25-33 Jesus is trying to explain the cost of discipleship. So many of the people who followed Jesus were unwilling to follow him wholeheartedly. He begins by talking about the things they have to be willing to hate in order to be His disciple. He leads into a list of family members and says to hate even our own life. Does Jesus mean we have to hate our mom, dad, brother, sister, children, and wife?

Mitchell's Weekly Manna
Mitchell Lockhart

Very few people followed Jesus beyond the border of their town. There are very few people, outside of the apostles, who were with Jesus throughout most of His ministry. In Acts we read of two people who were with Jesus from the time He was baptized and started His ministry to the time He ascended into heaven. They also were the only non-apostle disciples to have seen Jesus after His Resurrection.

So many people wanted to see Jesus and follow Him around town, but very few were willing to leave their life behind and pursue Jesus. When Jesus says to hate all of those things He wants followers who are going to give 100% to His cause. He wants people who are willing to love Him more than they love their family and more than they love themselves. Jesus was probably tired of the people who started out following Him then were nowhere to be found when He left to go to the next city.

The question to yourself when thinking about becoming a Christian should be, "Am I willing to follow Jesus all the time?" Don't just stop at the gate and watch him disappear into the distance. Rather take Him by the hand and let Him lead you wherever He goes. What will you choose this day?

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — A Perverted Gospel
Galatians 1:6-9**

P.M. — Kirk Brothers to speak

Not Just a Fish Story

Many people find it difficult to take the Book of Jonah seriously because they find it hard to believe that a big fish could swallow a man and live to tell the story. The following account of a modern-day man who underwent a similar experience and did live to tell his story may be of help. The following account is taken from the *Princeton Theological Review*, Vol. 25, 1927, p. 636:

In February 1891, the whaling ship *Star of the East* was in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands and the lookout sighted a large sperm whale three miles away. Two boats were launched and in a short time one of the harpooners was enabled to spear the fish. The second boat attacked the whale, but was upset by a lash of its tail and the men thrown into the sea, one man being drowned, and another, James Bartley, having disappeared, could not be found. The whale was killed and in a few hours was lying by the ship's side and the crew was busy with axes and spades removing the blubber. They worked all-day and part of the night. Next morning, they attached some tackle to the stomach that was hoisted on the deck. The sailors were startled by something in it that gave spasmodic signs of life, and inside was found the missing sailor doubled up and unconscious. He was laid on the deck and treated to a bath of sea water which soon revived him. He remained two weeks but acted like a raving lunatic. At the end of the third week he had entirely recovered from the shock and resumed his duties.

Bartley affirms that he would probably have lived inside his house of flesh until he starved, for he lost his senses through fright and not from lack of air. He remembers the sensation of being thrown out of the boat into the sea. He was then encompassed by a great darkness and he felt he was slipping along a smooth passage of some sort that seemed to move and carry him forward. The sensation lasted but a short time and then he realized he had more room. He felt about him and his hands came in contact with a yielding, slimy substance that seemed to shrink from his touch. It finally dawned upon him that he had been swallowed by the whale. He could easily breathe, but the heat was terrible. It was not a scorching, stifling nature, but it seemed to open the pores of his skin and draw out his vitality. His skin was exposed to the action of the gastric juice. His face, neck and hands were bleached to a deadly whiteness and took on the appearance of parchment (and) he never recovered his natural appearance. Otherwise his health did not seem affected by his terrible experience.

This is simply one of a few accounts of a man being swallowed by a large fish and living to tell about it. Of course, the most important man to be swallowed by a large fish was God's prophet Jonah!

*John F. Board
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